



## Mail-Order Wings

*Beatrice Gormley*

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"Fly with your own wings!" said the ad in Andrea's comic book. "Money-back guarantee!" Andrea knew it couldn't be true, but she sent in her money for the wings kit anyway. What happened next was wonderful beyond imagining--and then very, very frightening.

## Mail-Order Wings Details

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Author : Beatrice Gormley

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## From Reader Review Mail-Order Wings for online ebook

### Amy Rae says

A solidly weird little book. Somehow, I ran across it on Goodreads, and this review convinced me to pick it up. It's exactly right--Kafka for kids, right down to referencing what sounds like a comic-book adaptation of The Metamorphosis. The kind of light scifi I loved reading as a kid.

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### Swankivy says

I liked fantastical books about flying, sure, so when I saw a book featuring a girl with rainbow wings, I checked it out of the library. It turned out to be a really disturbing book, to some degree. The main character--a bird-watching enthusiast named Andrea--orders a set of wings from a comic book article, not really believing that they would actually allow her to fly. But after she assembles the wings according to the instructions, glues them to her back, and drinks a potion, she can fly, just like she'd always dreamed. The downfall, of course, is that she's now a girl with really obvious wings and that's hard to hide (though she can do so with difficulty, under a sweater). Things get even more freaky when she starts responding to bizarre avian instincts and fears she's turning into a bird. It's actually super creepy. But you do learn a lot about birds. Heh.

I showed this book to my sister during my first reading, and we giggled over the cover. When she asked about the book, I told her it was about a girl who bought wings through mail-order and glued them to her back. My sister responded with "Well that doesn't make sense, because gluing wings to your back wouldn't actually work for flying." Then I told her, "Well, then she has to drink juice that came with it," and my sister replied "Oh, that makes sense then." Then we looked at each other and were like, wait, what did we just say? Mail-order wings don't make sense, but drinking a magic potion to make them work is a lot more realistic. Ahh, we were silly kids.

I enjoyed it, even though it scared me when Andrea started feeling like a bird. I liked her practicing flying and how she realized that her fondest wish wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

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### Maya says

I read this a zillion times when I was a kid.

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### Jo Everett says

I don't know why exactly but this book has stayed in my mind ever since I first borrowed it from the library aged 12. There is something magical but also real about a girl who constructs a pair of wings out of a mail ordered kit from a magazine, then embarks on a journey to the company head-quarters as a reaction to a fear that the wings are turning her body into something of the feathered variety. One of the illustrations in particular of the head of the company who's face is a mash-up of a middle-aged man and an owl, has well

and truly embedded itself into my mind. Gripping stuff!

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### **Georgia says**

I read this as a kid and it still really bothers me.

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### **Gina says**

Cute, fast paced and charming. It'd be pretty silly if people didn't enjoy this book.

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### **Robin Amatrano says**

I read this in fourth grade and it has stayed with me all these years.

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### **Anastasia says**

It's hard to sell grade-schoolers on reading Kafka. Mail Order Wings, believe it or not, is a reasonable alternative: it's about a girl who identifies with birds and desires to have the experience of flight. She orders a set of wings that are supposed to do just that from one of those sketchy advertisements in the back of a comic book. She assembles wings feather by feather and adheres them to her back, gaining the ability to fly at the expense of a few inconveniences like trying to hide her new wings from her parents. But all this newfound power starts to come at the cost of her identity, as she herself undergoes a Kafkaesque metamorphosis...

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### **K says**

I have a signed copy of this book. The author came to my school when I was a kid. I remember being slightly creeped out when she got her wings. Overall, I think I liked the book.

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### **Amanda Coppedoge says**

A favorite from childhood.

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### **Taryn says**

**Rebecca Grabill says**

Blast from the past. I read this in the 1980s, checking it out from the library over and over and over. I. Loved. This. Book. So. Hard. When I reread it as an adult I still loved it, though I realized how much of it I “missed” as a girl.

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**Julie Decker says**

Andrea's obsessed with birds and really wishes she could fly like they do. When she comes across a silly ad in a comic book to order a pair of wings, she doesn't really believe the ad's claim that they'll allow her to fly, but soon enough she's glued the mail-order wings to her back and drunk the potion that came with it, and after that the wings actually work. She's overjoyed at being able to test them out in her bedroom and wonders about flying outside, but the inconveniences of hiding her wings in school are frustrating and a little scary. Her fears multiply when something transformative seems to be happening to her mind. Is she turning into a bird? And whose dastardly plot was this, anyway?

The book is a lot creepier than you'd probably expect when picking up a book about a girl with fake rainbow-colored wings she glued on. It's the sort of moderate body horror that mounts from the innocent beginning that does it: Andrea starts responding and feeling like a bird after a while, and when she's summoned by some force that appeals powerfully to the bird part of her, she's fighting with her last vestiges of humanity to avoid becoming a pawn in someone's game. The author did a good job with her first flight scenes, too, though they're a little goofy. The slight disappointment in this book comes from the simplicity of the premise: it kinda bugs me when a book that asks a compelling question and handles absurd situations relatively realistically has a bizarre mastermind behind it all whose motivation doesn't really make a lot of sense. Sinister outcomes don't always have to be powered by bad guys--it's just something I'm tired of seeing.

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**Erin says**

Read this when i was younger, loved it, just read it again recently. it was still pretty good!

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**unknown says**

THIS BOOK STILL HAUNTS ME.

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